

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 IO-13 EB-07 NRC-05

OES-06 FEAE-00 ERDA-05 TRSE-00 COME-00 EURE-00 /106 W
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3861

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

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THE HAGUE FOR USDEL SECRETARY

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR FR PAK ENRG

SUBJECT: AUGUST 11 MEDIA AND UDR REACTION TO
SECRETARY'S VISIT

REF: PARIS 23202

SUMMARY: MOST MORNING PAPERS PLAYED SECRETARY'S FIRST
MEETING WITH THE PRESS STRAIGHT, WITH VARIOUS DETAILS
OF THE STAY AT DEAUVILLE BEING ADDED AS SIDEBARS. WITH
NO EXCEPTIONS THE NEWSPAPERS REPORTED FUNSETH STATEMENT
ON THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES AND
THE SECRETARY; MOST ADD CONFIRMATION THAT THE DEPART-
MENT SOUGHT TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF FRENCH SALE OF
NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT TO PAKISTAN "BY CONCERTA-
TION". MORNING RADIO COMMENTATORS WERE, HOWEVER, MUCH
MORE SEVERE, ALLEGING THE SECRETARY WAS CHANGING HIS
POSITION AND LABELING HIS STATEMENTS "BLACKMAIL".
END SUMMARY.

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1. KEEPING THE FRENCH PUBLIC INTERESTED: THE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS (QP) CONTENTED ITSELF WITH NOTING THE SECOND VISIT OF CHARGE GAMMON TO THE QUAI, BUT DID NOT GO BEYOND AN EXCERPTED REPRODUCTION OF THE QUAI'S COMMUNIQUE. NOTING THAT THE SECRETARY HAD SPECIFICALLY REFUSED ALL "CONFRONTATION", THE QP CLOSED THE REPORTING PART OF ITS ARTICLE WITH, "THE AFFAIR OF THE FRENCH-PAKISTANI CONTRACT WHICH THE SECRETARY OF STATE WISHES TO BREAK IS 'IN (HIS) OPINION TOO COMPLICATED' TO EXPLAIN". THE REST OF QP'S ARTICLE WAS A SLIGHTLY SARCASTIC LOOK AT THE RICHES OF THE STABLE AT PIEN-COURT. THE MORNING FIGARO CONFINED ITSELF TO SIMPLE AMERICAN-STYLE REPORTING OF THE FACTS: THE SECRETARY HAD CALLED MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES; THE AMERICAN ATTITUDE IS EXPLAINED "BY THE FEAR OF SEEING MORE AND MORE COUNTRIES ACQUIRING THE TECHNOLOGY NECESSARY FOR THE FABRICATION OF NUCLEAR ARMS"; AND THE SECRETARY IS SEEKING NOT CONFRONTATION BUT A RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM IN A "FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE" SPIRIT. BOTH NEWSPAPERS MADE IT CLEAR THAT ONE OF THE FACTORS IN THE EQUATION IS THE EXTENT TO WHICH PRESIDENT FORD IS BEING PRESSED BY JIMMY CARTER. IN THE CASE OF FIGARO, IT IS FOR THAT REASON THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS NOW BROUGHT THE SYMINGTON AMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC'S ATTENTION; IN THE CASE OF THE QUOTIDIEN, ITS EDITOR, IN A RADIO INTERVIEW, SAW RECENT U.S. POLLS AS THE PRIMARY REASON FOR A U.S. "GET-TOUGH" ATTITUDE.

2. L'AURE--SARCASM. UNDER THE HEADLINE "KISSINGER, BLOWING HOT AFTER THE COLD", RIGHTIST AURE BUILDS A NEATLY SARCASTIC CASE AGAINST AMERICAN POLICY IN GENERAL AND INDULGES IN SOME NASTY PERSONAL ATTACKS ON THE SECRETARY. FOR AURE, THE ENTIRE CONTROVERSY CAN BE EXPLAINED, OR SO IT WOULD SEEM, BY THE THOUGHT THAT "AFTER HAVING PROVOKED PUBLIC OUTCRY WITH A BRUTALITY MORE PRUSSIAN THAN DIPLOMATIC, THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE TRIED TO CALM THE STORM WHICH HE HIMSELF HAD LET LOOSE". NOTING THAT THE SECRETARY HAD SAID OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES "WE SPOKE BETWEEN FRIENDS", AURE PICKED UP AN ALLEGED INTERVIEW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

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OF MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES (BY ROBERT LASSUS; RADIO STATION RTL) WHICH CLAIMED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THE SECRETARY HAD "PLEADED THE DEFORMATION OF HIS THOUGHTS BY THE JOURNALISTS WHO HAD ACCOMPANIED HIM TO PAKISTAN. THE FRENCH MINISTER, WHOSE ALLERGY TO JOURNALISTS IS PROVERBIAL, HIMSELF CALLED INTO QUESTION 'SLIGHTLY EXCLUSIVE PRESS COVERAGE'". AURORE'S MOST SARCASTIC MOMENT CAME IN DISCUSSING THE CHARGE'S CALL ON THE QUAI: "(KISSINGER) HAD THE AMERICAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES TELL THE QUAI D'ORSAY THAT NEVER, BUT NEVER, HAD HE EXERCISED ANY PRESSURE ON PAKISTAN. RATHER, HE HAD SIMPLY EXPRESSED HIS FEARS FOR THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY".

3. THE COMMUNISTS--STRIKING A SOVIET-INSPIRED BLOW FOR NPT. A TOTALLY PREDICTABLE HUMANITE ARTICLE EVDKED BOTH THE FRIENDLY SPIRIT OF THE SAUVAGNARGUES-KISSINGER CONVERSATION AS WELL AS THE AMERICAN WISH TO SELL REACTORS TO SOUTH AFRICA. BUT THE REAL CRUX OF THE

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HUMANITE STORY WAS THE REPORT THAT RED STAR NEWSPAPER OF THE SOVIET MINISTER OF DEFENSE HAD REMINDED ITS READERS THAT FRANCE STILL REFUSES TO SIGN THE NPT.

4. RADIO REPORTING: LENGTHY LEAD STORIES CARRIED BY NATIONAL RADIO (FRANCE-INTER AND EUROPE 1) REPEATED YESTERDAY'S THEMES. THE SECRETARY HAD ATTEMPTED TO "BLACKMAIL" THE GOF AND THE GOP; BOTH GOVERNMENTS WERE STANDING FIRM IN THE FACE OF PRESSURE; THE U.S. WOULD SOON BE LED TO A MORE FRIENDLY ARRANGEMENT, SAID FRANCE-INTER. OTHER RADIO COMMENT EMPHASIZED THE CHANGING TONE -- HARSH, THEN MODERATE, THEN HARSH AGAIN -- OF THE SECRETARY'S LAST THREE STATEMENTS.

YVES GUENA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UDR (THE POLITICAL PARTY--GAULLIST--HOLDING THE LARGEST NUMBER OF SEATS IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY), REACTED TO THE FRENCH-PAKISTAN PROPOSED PROCESSING PLANT DEAL IN A TELEVISED INTERVIEW ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 10. HE CITED SUPPOSED PRESSURES EXERCISED BY USG ON COUNTRIES INTERESTED IN PURCHASING THE AIRBUS; HE CITED THE NATO COMBAT PLANE DEAL; HE CITED THE QUARREL OVER THE CONCORDE; AND HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE "US IS A HEGEMONIOUS POWER.... IF ONE HAS THE WILL TO HAVE A POLICY OF NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, WELL THEN, ONE IS LED TO CONFRONT THE U.S. THAT SIMPLY MUST BE KNOWN".

GUENA CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE WAS "NOT SHOCKED TO SEE MINISTER D'ORNANO GREET SECRETARY KISSINGER AT THE DEAUVILLE AIRPORT.... I BELIEVE THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE A REACTION IN DUE TIME, I HOPE SO, AND EVEN I INSIST. AS FOR THE REST, FIRMNESS DOES NOT EXCLUDE COURTESY".

GAMMON

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